BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH

In the matter of the Application of Rocky Mountain Power for a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity Authorizing Construction of the Populus to Terminal 345 kV Transmission Line Project	)))))	DIRECT TESTIMONY OF SHARON SEPPI Docket No. 08-035-__

APRIL 2008

Q. Please state your name, business address and present position.

A. My name is Sharon L. Seppi. My business address is 1407 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah 84116. My present position is Managing Director of Construction Services.

Q. How long have you been in your present position?

A. I have been in my present position since June 2005.

Q. Please describe your education and business experience.

A. I received a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering from Utah State University in 1985, a Masters of Business Administration from Utah State University in 2003 and Project Management Professional certification in 1998. I was first employed by Utah Power in 1982 and have held various positions in engineering and asset management, project management and construction services.

Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?

A. The purpose of my testimony is to describe the route for the Populus to Terminal Transmission Line, the analysis used to determine the route, the permitting requirements and the schedule and estimated cost of the Transmission Line and associated substation outside Downey, Idaho (collectively referred to in this testimony as the "Transmission Project.")

Q. Please describe the beginning and termination points for the Transmission Project.

A. The route commences from the existing Terminal Substation southwest of the Salt Lake International Airport and extends along an existing transmission line

corridor to the existing Ben Lomond Substation in southern Box Elder County, Utah. The transmission line then proceeds from the Ben Lomond Substation to a point near Downey, Idaho, where it will terminate at the new Populus Substation. The segment of the Transmission Line between the Ben Lomond and Populus substations will be sited in a new transmission line corridor. A map showing the route that was selected for the Transmission Line is provided by Mr. Cupparo as Exhibit No. A.

Q. What factors were considered in identifying the route for the Transmission Line Project?

A. Reliability, engineering, constructability, environmental impacts, schedule, impacts on local communities and landowners, and overall project efficiency were the primary factors considered in determining the route for the Transmission Project.

Q. How were these factors applied in selecting the route?

A. When analyzing the feasibility of various potential routes between the existing Terminal Substation and the Populus Substation, the Company considered a set of criteria that included safety, reliability and overall efficiency, which encompasses cost and meeting the goals for the Transmission Line Project. The Company excluded various potential routes that were in proximity to the Company's existing 345 kV transmission lines to reduce potential reliability problems and impacts to the overall transmission system caused by natural events such as fire, windstorms, earthquake, and human-caused damages. The Company also considered the cost and constructability of each potential route through analyses

of geographic and geologic considerations; environmental constraints; existing and expected future development; potential for utilizing existing linear corridors where feasible, such as major arterial roadways and rail lines; and avoidance of sensitive areas that had cultural and local governmental agency planning and land use standards and criteria that would be problematic. Generally, these factors are balanced, with no single factor being determinative as to whether a particular route should be selected.

Q. Please describe the public involvement in selecting the route for the Transmission Project.

A. Early in the planning process the Company conducted initial briefings with stakeholders and agencies throughout the study area to introduce the project and gather feedback. Following the selection of the transmission line route, the Company conducted another round of briefings with potentially impacted stakeholders and agencies to inform them about the Transmission Project and gather additional information. These meetings were conducted at various locations along the selected Transmission Line route. The briefings presented information about the Transmission Project specific to each local governmental jurisdiction and addressed land use, zoning, and general plan information, along with clarifications of the permitting process. A project newsletter was mailed in December 2007 to community leaders/stakeholders and property owners located within 600 feet on either side of the Transmission Line corridor. The mailing list was generated using information from the county tax assessor database. The newsletter provided information about the Transmission Project, including the

purpose and need, overall project description, planning process and schedule, and public involvement opportunities such as open house meetings that were conducted in Downey, Idaho; Malad City, Idaho; Garland, Utah; and Brigham City, Utah in January 2008. Opportunity for public comment was given at these open house meetings and specific questions and concerns were addressed personally by Company representatives. Additional opportunity for public comment was provided through the use of a dedicated project phone line dedicated for the Transmission Project and via e-mail.

Q. What land rights will need to be acquired for the Transmission Project?

A. The Company holds nearly all of the necessary land rights, either in easements or fee ownership, between the Ben Lomond Substation and the Terminal Substation. This corridor was acquired nearly three decades ago in preparation for an additional high voltage transmission line. New fee parcels or rights of way and easements will be acquired for that portion of the transmission line between Ben Lomond and the Populus Substation. Land for the Populus Substation will be acquired in fee.

Q. When will land rights be acquired?

A. In order to maintain the project schedule, which provides for work to be performed in sequenced stages, easements must be acquired or the Company must have a legal right of occupancy for certain portions before September 2008. The balance of corridor acquisition for the remaining segments should be completed in phases no later than early February, 2009. Rocky Mountain Power is using experienced appraisers to determine property valuation for negotiations with

individual landowners. The Company will exercise the power of eminent domain where necessary.

Q. What permits are required by local governmental authorities for the construction of the Transmission Project?

A. The Company holds a franchise agreement with each municipality and county within the Transmission Line route that grants the necessary rights for the construction of the Transmission Line. In addition, conditional use permits are required by certain cities and counties. Applications for conditional use permits will be filed by the end of May 2008.

Q. What other land rights and permits required for the construction of the Transmission Project?

A. Permits are required by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for construction within jurisdictional wetlands, aviation permits are required by the Federal Aviation Authority for construction of the Transmission Project near Salt Lake International Airport, and crossing permits are required for railroad and roadway crossings. Such permits will be acquired prior to commencement of construction.

Q. What is the projected construction schedule for the Transmission Project?

A. Construction is scheduled to begin in July 2008, and project completion and commercial operation is scheduled for June 2010. Survey of the selected route and determination of land ownership was initiated in January 2008. Easement and land acquisition and vegetation clearing will commence in May 2008. Final design of the transmission line will be done between June 2008 and December 2008.

Q. What is the estimated cost of the Transmission Project?

A. The total cost of the project has been estimated to be approximately $750 million. The Company has issued an engineering, procurement and construction request for proposal to potential bidders. All bids were due for submittal in February 2008, with an award planned for June 2008.

Q. Does this conclude your testimony?

A. Yes.